

Corres. and Mail

BOX AF

#6 / Rec'd 3/25/04
AF/2004

LTUSON
310962



REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP 2675
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q65683

Hiroyuki INABA, et al.

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2004

Appln. No.: 09/919,808

Group Art Unit: 2675

Confirmation No.: 4296

Examiner: Paul A. BELL

Filed: August 02, 2001

Technology Center 2600

For: DISPLAY CONTROL DEVICE

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 29, 2003, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Request, claims 1-12 are claims pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Strait et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,964,018; hereafter "Strait"). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of Strait.

In the Amendment filed October 2, 2003, Applicant argued that independent claims 1 and 12 should be allowable over Strait because the cited reference does not teach or suggest "a signal switching section for outputting the second display signal from the second display control

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/919,808

section on to the display section at the normal time, the signal switching section for outputting the first display signal from the first display control section onto the display section when an abnormal condition of the second display control section is detected", as required by claims 1 and 12.

In response to the arguments for patentability, the Examiner states that he disagrees because Strait et al. in column 1, lines 34-45 teaches under normal conditions displaying multiple conditions of the vehicle and under abnormal conditions 'switching' to display only one signal condition this reads on the broad language used above such as 'signal switching section' it is inherent that Strait must monitor the signals in order to implement the 'override function¹

However, Strait simply teaches monitoring a sensor data from vehicle sensors (e.g., oil, water, air pressures, temperatures and the like), comparing the sensor data with stored parameter limits representative of fault conditions, and automatically displaying the sensor data for a particular sensor (if previously non-selected for display) if the sensor data reaches the corresponding parameter limit.

The Examiner generally alleges that Strait discloses the claimed first and second display control sections via the digital scaler 25, the fault limit/digital scaler encode circuit 2, the fault monitor display lamp control circuit 40 and the no data generator 44, and discloses the claimed signal switching section via the select display gate control circuit 42 (see Figure 1). However, nowhere does Strait teach or suggest monitoring whether of the digital scaler 25, the fault limit/digital scaler encode circuit 2, the fault monitor display lamp control circuit 40 and the no data

¹ Office Action at page 6, last paragraph.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/919,808

generator 44 are functioning properly (i.e., monitoring these circuits to detect an abnormal condition thereof). Rather, the digital scaler 25 processes the sensor data and outputs serial scaled (sensor) data, and the fault limit/digital scaler encode circuit 2, the fault monitor display lamp control circuit 40 and the no data generator 44 are used to monitor the serial scaled sensor data and generate an alarm/warning signal if the sensor data reaches a corresponding parameter limit (high or low) or if no sensor data is received (indicating that one or more of the sensors have failed).

Therefore, the signal switching section of Strait (which the Examiner maintains allegedly corresponds to select display gate control 42 and latches 32) does not output the display signal from the first display control section (which corresponds to digital scaler 25) onto the display section (34) when an abnormal condition of the second display control section is detected, as required by the claims. Instead, the signal switching section (which corresponds to select display gate control 42 and latches 32) outputs the display signal from the first display control section (which corresponds to digital scaler 25) onto the display section (34) when an abnormal condition of the sensor data is detected by the second display control section.

Moreover, Strait does not disclose the claimed second display control section since only the digital scaler 25 outputs a display signal (serial scaled data 27) for display. That is, the fault monitor lamp display control circuit 40 provide a signal 38 to activate a flashing lamp and audible alarm and the select display gate control 42 outputs a signal to control the latches 32. Thus, Strait does not disclose a second display control section operated by an operating system program, the second display control section for processing the first display signal from the first display control section and outputting a second display signal to be displayed on the display section. In other words, Strait only provides a first display control section (digital scaler 25) and

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/919,808

a sensor fault monitoring section (fault limit/digital scaler encode circuit 2, fault monitor display lamp control circuit 40, and no data generator 44).

In addition to reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that it is quite clear that Strait does not teach or suggest “the first and second display signals comprise image data regarding the vehicle condition, and the image data of the display signal from the first display control section has a lower resolution than the image data of the display signal from the second display control section”, as further required by independent claim 12. The Examiner contends that Strait discloses this feature because “in [a] normal state multiple conditions of the vehicle are read and displayed but when there is an abnormal level[,] only one value is displayed and this corresponds to less details in the signal which broadly reads on a signal of ‘lower resolution’.” However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s position is improper since a display signal regarding one sensed condition does have less resolution than a display signal regarding a plurality of sensed conditions (i.e., both signals may have the same resolution).² Further, the Examiner’s characterization of the teachings of Strait is incorrect since the reference does not disclose teaches that “in [a] normal state multiple conditions of the vehicle are read and displayed but when there is an abnormal level[,] only one value is displayed”. That is, the display unit includes three conventional three conventional digital displays, wherein one display displays the operator-selected sensor condition data (selected by push button selector switches 36) corresponding to one of the analog sensors (water temperature, oil pressure, air pressure, reserve

² “Resolution” is the degree of sharpness of an image, e.g., as measured by the number of pixels per square inch on a display screen.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/919,808

air pressure, exhaust temperature, fuel level and battery voltage) and the other two displays correspond to the digital tachometer and speed sensors (see column 4, line 66 - column 5, line 26). Thus, only one selected condition is displayed at any given time and may be overridden when a fault condition of an different analog sensor is detected.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 12, as well as dependent claims 2-11, should be allowable because the applied reference does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims.

Lastly, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to schedule an interview after the Examiner has had an opportunity to consider the above remarks.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher R. Lipp
Registration No. 41,157

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 22, 2004

Attorney Docket No.: Q65683